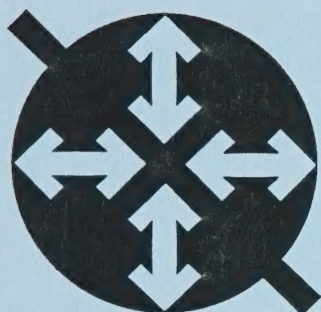




BLISSYMBOLICS
COMMUNICATION
INTERNATIONAL

ANNUAL
REPORT

1989/90

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BLISSYMBOLICS COMMUNICATION INTERNATIONAL

ANNUAL REPORT

1989/90

This report reflects the activities of the Blissymbolics Communication International during the period from March 1989 to June 1990.

This time period was one of immense change and transition for BCI. The major event was the establishment of BCI as a separate organization (as of January 1, 1990) with its own Board of Directors (Appendix A) and a focus on the development and application of Blissymbolics around the world. The Easter Seal Society (Ontario) has incorporated the Easter Seal Communication Institute into their activities as a fully integrated department. This division of BCI and ESCI, although somewhat unsettling, was a friendly separation with ESCI and BCI continuing to share some office staff as well as office space and equipment. ESCI continues to distribute Blissymbol materials and publications for BCI. Throughout these changes The Easter Seal Society has provided much appreciated support and interest in BCI's work.

The objectives of BCI, as ratified by the Board of Directors in February, 1990 are:

- To provide support to the international system of Blissymbolics, considering it to be a valuable form of augmentative communication that contributes to development and growth.
- To hold the inclusive, noncancellable, perpetual, worldwide (except in Australia) licence to the copyright to the symbols as created by C.K.Bliss, awarded to BCI in 1982, to use, publish, teach and disseminate Blissymbols for use by persons with handicaps and persons having communication, language and learning difficulties.
- To develop the system of Blissymbolics through consultation with an international symbol panel and symbol committee.
- To support standards relating to the system of Blissymbolics, symbol materials and training, through sublicensing arrangements and meetings with an international network of associates and affiliates.
- To provide consultation and support to Blissymbol applications, including software development, publishing and teaching materials.
- To promote and encourage the use of Blissymbols throughout the world.

AFFILIATES

Through formal affiliation with BCI, recognition is given to centres and/or individuals who have a strong interest in Blissymbolics and its applications.

International

Interest in Blissymbol applications, publications and training outside North America can be seen in the number and nature of formal agreements with BCI. As of June 1990, BCI has Affiliate sublicensing agreements with 28 countries relating to the Affiliate responsibilities of training and information dissemination. We were pleased to welcome our newest Affiliate from Greece in July, 1989. Other agreements relating to translation, distribution, royalties and publication have also been signed with BCI.

The 1989 European Affiliate meeting was held in Thuin, Belgium, March 20-23, 1989 with approximately 60 participants representing 14 different language groups. It was hosted by Annie Gosset Ferenc and Henrietta Dumont of l'Association Bliss Belgique. This meeting provided a valuable forum for discussion of the issues and concerns of those who work with Blissymbols, as well as allowing an opportunity to reinforce the close association of the Blissymbol community.

The 1990 Blissymbol European Affiliate meeting is scheduled for August 17-19, in Osthamar, Sweden, immediately following the ISAAC Biennial Conference in Stockholm. It will be hosted by the Nordic Bliss Committee, with planning arrangements made by Margareta Jennische and Britt Carlsson.

North America

In 1989-90, formal agreements were signed with 34 centres and/or individuals in North America.

The 1990 North American Affiliate meeting was held in Toronto, April 29-30. The first day centred on demonstrations of various new Blissymbol applications in technology. The second day was devoted to discussion of Blissymbol issues and long term strategies for BCI.

INTERNATIONAL PANEL

The International Panel, with 75 members, serves as an advisory body to the BCI symbol office, and is comprised of representatives from different countries, language backgrounds and professions who have experience in using or teaching Blissymbolics.

Two questionnaires were sent out to the International Panel in the past year, one pertaining to Blissymbols for teaching sexuality, the other relating to creating alternate Blissymbols for those containing the opposite-meaning symbol.

In August 1989, an International Panel meeting was held in Jerusalem, Israel, hosted by Judy Seligman-Wine. It was attended by 21 Panel members from nine countries together with 18 participants from Israel. This meeting was a most unique opportunity for Panel members to discuss issues relating to the system of Blissymbolics and to share ideas for new Blissymbols.

In November 1989, the Symbol Committee (Appendix A) approved 137 new or revised Blissymbols. The majority of new symbols relate to human sexuality. There are now approximately 2250 Blissymbols in the system.

MONITORS

A BCI network of 35 Blissymbol Monitors throughout the world ensure that a standard graphic form of Blissymbols appears in publications and computer software. In the spring of 1989, the **Guidelines for Blissymbol Monitors** was revised for these Monitors.

In the spring of 1990, Blissapple codes were revised and created for all symbols added to the system since the publication of the computer program, **Talking Blissapple**. In addition, BLISSCII codes were revised and created for the new Blissymbols. BLISSCII codes are used in the transmission of Blissymbols between communication devices.

TRAINING

Blissymbol Elementary workshops were offered in July & October, 1989 and May 1990. Another three-day workshop is scheduled for October 1990.

A new format for introducing Blissymbols was offered for the first time by Shirley McNaughton in April 1990. A one-day seminar, **Bliss in a Day**, offers a practical opportunity for those working for the first time with a student who uses Blissymbols or for those who need a review and update on Blissymbol use. This training will be given again in October 1990, once in Ottawa and again in Toronto.

FUNDING

BCI appreciates the ongoing support and contribution to our work by The Easter Seal Society (Ontario). As well, other sources of funding have been gratefully received by BCI in 1989/90 from:

Canada Life
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce
Confederation Life
Donway Place
Our People Fund

Pilot Clubs of Ontario
Royal Trust
Scotiabank
Toronto Star
Warner Lambert

and individual donors.

Special Project funding: Bradshaw Trust Foundation
International Business Machines Corp.
IDON Corporation
Kiwanis Club of Toronto
Ontario Ministry of Education

DAVID WOODS FELLOWSHIP

This fellowship was established in 1985 in recognition of the unique contribution to the BCI Board of Directors given by David Woods.

In May, 1989, Cathy Matheson, the parent of a six year old daughter who uses Blissymbols, came to BCI as the 1989 David Woods Fellow from Adelaide, Australia. She visited various settings, talked with other parents and attended several Blissymbol workshops during her six-week program with BCI.

Manfred Gangkofer, a special education teacher from West Germany, was chosen as the 1990 David Woods Fellow. During the six weeks (May-June) he was with BCI, he met with clinical and education professionals in our resource centre, and visited various classroom, residential and educational settings, including several outside of Toronto.

BLISSTEMPLATE FONT

The BlissTemplate Font was developed by Dr. Peter Reich, Department of Linguistics, University of Toronto for the Macintosh computer. It provides standard Blissymbols for inclusion in software. **AccessBliss**, developed by Russell Galvin and Fraser Shein, uses the BlissTemplate Font and enables the user to find and retrieve any currently available Blissymbols for use in other application programs for the Macintosh computer. Several other application programs using the BlissTemplate Font are currently under development.

REVISED BLISSYMBOL DICTIONARY

The first part of a revised version of Blissymbols For Use, the English Alphabetical Ordering of Symbols, was completed recently and is now available to Affiliates for translation purposes. The entire manuscript of the Dictionary is scheduled for completion in the spring of 1991.

NEW INITIATIVES

A number of new BCI projects are at various stages of development. These include:

StoryBliss - story reading software for the Macintosh computer featuring text/Blissymbol mix. It is expected to be available in the fall of 1990.

BlissTel - software allowing Blissymbol telephone communication. It is presently undergoing a field trial in Toronto.

Video - for use in educational settings for augmentative communication specialists. This should be completed in the fall of 1990.

Sexuality Booklets - a series of fourteen books on human sexuality will be published in the spring of 1991 with Blissymbol translations by Claudia Wood.

BMW - Blissymbol Component Minspeak Words Strategy - a communication strategy for use on the Touch Talker. It is being developed by Shirley McNaughton and Annalu Waller and will be available in the fall of 1990.

Julius and his Computer - a children's story by Thelma Chait (South Africa), translated into Blissymbols by Annalu Waller and typeset on the Macintosh computer by BCI.

The time period covered in this report has been both stimulating and challenging. It is only through the strong support and guidance of the Board of Directors and the help of many interested individuals that so much has been accomplished. We look forward to strengthening our ties with our many Blissymbol associates over the coming years.

Respectfully submitted

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Administrator
July 1990

APPENDIX A

BLISSYMBOLICS COMMUNICATION INTERNATIONAL

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